

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 077175
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY:TH
APPROVED BY P - MR HABIB
NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.
S/S:MR. BRIDGES
NSC - MR -QUANDT

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O 062351Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 077175

EXDIS - FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SY

SUBJECT: YOUR MEETING WITH ASAD

REF: DAMASCUS 2125

1. YOU WILL RECEIVE IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM A RUNDOWN OF
THE PRESIDENT'S MEETINGS WITH SADAT THAT YOU SHOULD CONVEY
TO ASAD WHEN YOU SEE HIM. IN ADDITION, PLEASE MAKE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS FROM ME:

-- PRESIDENT CARTER AND I ARE VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD
TO MEETING FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM LATER THIS MONTH AND
PRESIDENT ASAD IN MAY.

-- WE WILL WANT TO EXPLORE ON BOTH OCCASIONS THE
THREE KEY ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE QUESTION OF A PEACE

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SETTLEMENT: THE QUESTION OF WITHDRAWAL AND BOUNDARIES;
THE NATURE OF PEACE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN A SETTLEMENT;
AND THE QUESTION OF A SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM.
WE WILL WANT TO ELABORATE IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSIONS
THE IDEAS PRESIDENT CARTER DISCUSSED PUBLICLY ON MARCH 9
AND MARCH 16 ABOUT FINAL BOUNDARIES, THE SECURITY ARRANGE-
MENTS TO ACCOMPANY WITHDRAWAL, THE NATURE OF RELATIONS

BETWEEN THE PARTIES IN THE CONTEXT OF A PEACE SETTLEMENT,

AND A HOMELAND FOR THE PALESTINIANS.

-- THE MOST IMMEDIATE ISSUE, HOWEVER, IN TERMS OF CONVENING A PEACE CONFERENCE THIS YEAR, IS PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION. WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE SO LITTLE PROGRESS TOWARD A SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM.

-- WE ARE AWARE THAT THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING WAYS TO OVERCOME THE OBSTACLES THAT THE POSITION OF THE PLO ON PEACE WITH ISRAEL CREATES FOR THE RECONVENING OF GENEVA, AND WE AGREE THIS IS SOMETHING FOR THE ARABS TO DEAL WITH IN THE FIRST INSTANCE. WE WILL BE INTERESTED TO HEAR FROM FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM AND SUBSEQUENTLY FROM PRESIDENT ASAD THEIR LATEST THINKING ON THIS QUESTION, AND WILL WANT TO EXPLORE THE VARIOUS POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES FOR A SOLUTION.

MEANWHILE, I SEND MY BEST REGARDS TO FOREIGN MINISTER
-- MEANWHILE, I SEND MY BEST REGARDS TO FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM AND PRESIDENT ASAD, TOGETHER WITH MY RENEWED THANKS FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY ON MY RECENT TRIP.
VANCE

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